

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 /056 W

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O R 301530Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9585

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

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WHITE HOUSE PASS NESSEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, CASC (SIMONS, LEWIS M.)

SUBJ: EXPULSION OF WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT

LEWIS M. SIMONS

1. MEA JOINT SECRETARY (AMERICAS TEJA) CALLED IN POL CONSELOR THIS EVENING TO INFORM HIM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIAN HAD JUST TOLD WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT LEWIS SIMONS TO WITHDRAW FROM INDIA WITHIN 24 HOURS. TEJA SAID THAT THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD TAKEN UP SIMONS'S RECENT REPORTING WITH THE WASHINGTON POST MANAGEMENT IN WASHINGTON, BUT THE POST HAD DECLINED TO WITHDRAW SIMONS VOLUNTARILY. TEJA SPECIFICALLY CITED JUNE 21 DISPATCH IN WHICH SIMONS REFERRED TO THE USE OF ARMY PERSONNEL IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AT A POLITICAL RALLY FOR MRS GANDHI, DESCRIBING THIS REPORT AS "ABSOLUTELY, ENTIRELY WRONG" AND HAVING BEEN SUBMIZED WITHOUT CHECKING WITH ANY OFFICIAL SOURCE. HE DESCRIBED IT AS A FABRICATION AND NOTED THAT THIS REPORT HAD BEEN FILED BY NO OTHER CORRESPONDENT.

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2. TEJA ALSO CITED SIMONS' DISPATCHES OF JUNE 28 AND 29, WHICH, ACCORDING TO TEJA, SAID THAT THERE WAS NO SUPPORT IN INDIA FOR THE EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION AND IT HAD BEEN RECEIVED WITH SHOCK BY THE PUBLIC. THIS WAS A VIOLATION OF INDIA'S CENSORSHIP, ALTHOUGH TEJA WAS UNCERTAIN IF SIMONS HAD ACTUALLY FILED THE REPORTS BEFORE OR AFTER CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS HAD BEEN PROMULGATED. TEJA SAID THAT SIMONS COULD HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED FOR HIS VIOLATION OF CENSORSHIP, BUT WAS BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEPART INDIA.

3. TEJA SAID THAT SIMONS HAD WANTED TO DEPART ON THAI INTERNATIONAL AT 1400 JULY 1, BUT THE GOI HAD INDICATED ITS PREFERENCE THAT HE LEAVE ON PA 2 AT 0600 JULY 1 BECAUSE THE PANAM SCHEDULE WAS MORE RELIABLE. TEJA SAID SIMONS' FAMILY COULD STAY ON TEMPORARILY TO WOND UP THEIR AFFAIRS.

4. POL COUNSELOR RECALLED THE DCM'S COMMENTS TO FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS INDICATING US DISAPPROVAL OF CENSORSHIP AND CURBS ON PRESS FREEDOM UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. HE REITERATED EMBASSY STRONGLY REGRETTEED GOI'S DECISION TO EXPEL SIMONS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER EXPULSION OF SIMONS WAS OF HIM ALONE OR AS WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT, TEJA SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIAN WOULD CONSIDER AN APPLICATION BY ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT FROM THE WASHINGTON POST BUT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY NEW CORRESPONDENT'S WILLINGNESS TO ABIDE BY AND OBEY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S REGULATIONS.

5. POL COUNSELOR EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND REGRET AT THE SHORT NOTICE GIVEN TO SIMONS IN REQUIRING THAT HE LEAVE, NOTING THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD HAVE SEEMED POSSIBLE TO ALLOW HIM MORE TIME TO WOND UP HIS AFFAIRS. TEJA REPLIED ONLY THAT THE TIME HAD BEEN SET BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S ORDER AND DID NOT SPECIFICALLY RESPONDIRO THE POL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSELOR'S OBSERVATION.

6. FINALLY TEJA, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ANY MORE EXPULSION ORDERS WERE PENDING, OBSERVED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY AT THIS TIME. ADDING A FINAL WORD, TEJA EMPHASIZED THAT THE CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS WOULD BE ENFORCED AND THAT SIMONS HAD ADMITTED TO MEA PRESS OFFICER A.N.D.

HAKSAR THT THE HAD FILED WITHOUT CENSORSHIP BECAUSE  
HE COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF TO ACCEPT CENSORSHIP.

7. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE PAO, SIMONS REPORTED  
THAT THE OFFICIAL AT THE FOREIGN REGISTRATION  
OFFICE WHO SERVED HIM THE EXPULSION ORDER  
ALSO HAD A STACK OF OTHER DOSSIERS ON HIS DESK. ON  
TOP WAS ONE MARKED "JACQUES LESLIE-JOURNALIST," THE  
RESIDENT LOS ANGELES TIMES CORRESPONDENT. SIMONS  
ASKED WHETHER THE EMBASSY WOULD PROTEST HIS OWN  
EXPULSION AND THE OTHER EXPULSIONS WHICH WERE  
PROBABLY BEING PREPARED. SIMONS IMPLIED THAT HE  
FELT THAT A PROTEST WAS IN ORDER. SIMONS ALSO  
REPORTED THAT HE HAD INFORMED HIS OFFICE IN WASHINGTON  
OF HIS EXPULSION AND THAT THE POST'S MOSCOW  
CORRESPONDENT, PETER OSNOS, WOULD BE ARRIVING IN  
DELHI TOMORROW. SIMONS WAS TOLD THAT EMBASSY'S  
CONSULAR OFFICER AND PRESS ATTACHE WOULD SEE HIM  
OFF IN THE MORNING.

8. IF ASKED, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO TELL REPORTERS  
THAT THE EMBASSY HAS EXPRESSED ITS STRONG REGRET  
TO GOI AT SIMONS' EXPULSION.

9. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST  
(WITHOUT FILING) HAS ASKED A GOI PRESS AND  
INFORMATION BUREAU OFFICIAL TONIGHT WHETHER THE  
SIMONS EXPULSION STORY WOULD PASS CENSORSHIP. HE  
WAS TOLD THAT IT COULD NOT "BECAUSE IT HAS NOT  
BEEN ANNOUNCED."  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL REPRESSION, EXPULSION, THE PRESS, JOURNALISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JUN 1975  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE WHITE HOUSE  
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